



National Museum of Health and Medicine

Otis Historical Archives

OHA 288.9 Rich Collection

Accession Number: 2014.0004

Date of Records: 1965-1966

Size: 3 boxes

Finding Aid by: Eric W. Boyle (2014)

Biographical Note: Dr. Norman M Rich was born in Ray Pinal County, Arizona on January 13, 1934, the son of George Rich and Leona LuVerne Minner Rich. He received both his B.S. (1956) and M.D. (1960) degrees at Stanford University. Dr. Rich then served his internship at Tripler General Hospital in Honolulu and his General Surgery Residency at Letterman General Hospital in San Francisco. He was then assigned to the Second Surgical Hospital as Chief of the Department of Surgery, first at Fort Bragg in 1965 and later at An Khe in the Republic of Vietnam from 1965 to 1966.

He was the first Fellow in Vascular Surgery at Walter Reed and shortly thereafter assumed the position as Chief of Vascular Surgery and Director of the Fellowship from 1967 to 1978. He served as Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery (1977-1999) and Director of the Vietnam Vascular Registry which he initiated in 1965 as well as Academic Advisor to the Department of Surgery and Co-Director of the Vascular Fellowship Program at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, beginning in 1978, and after becoming Emeritus in 1983. Dr. Rich was appointed Professor of Surgery of the School of Medicine at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS) in 1976 and he became the first Chairman of the Department of Surgery in 1977. At the time of his retirement from active duty in 1980, he made a commitment to serve as Chairman of the Department of Surgery, retiring 15 years after his initial appointment, in 2002.

In 1999, Dr. Rich was awarded the Leonard Heaton and David Packard Professorship named for two USUHS Founders. He earned international recognition for his work in vascular trauma, lecturing in over 35 countries. He published over 300 manuscripts and has been the author or co-author of 5 books. *Vascular Trauma*, co-authored with Dr. Frank Spencer, is widely considered the bible of the field. Dr. Rich also served on editorial boards of 10 journals and was a member of every major surgical and vascular surgical society in the world. His U.S. military awards include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Award and Vietnam Medals. The Norman Rich papers (MSS015) are housed at the University Archives of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, MD.

Series/Scope and Content Note: Dr. Rich donated the Dr. Norman Rich Papers (MSS015) to the USU Archives between 2006 and 2013. He continues to donate records to the collection on an ongoing basis.



Due to related holdings here at the NMHM, Dr. Rich agreed to transfer a portion of these records, which constitute the bulk of the collection in OHA 288.9. Included in this collection are the operation and clinical files from the 2nd Surgical Hospital, including 2nd Surgical Hospital APO 96490 Discharge Summaries and Operations and 2nd Surgical Hospital Path Ships and Surgical Follow-up Correspondence from Patients Evacuated. Records generated by Dr. Rich at the 2nd Surgical Hospital were used in a research project he conducted on wound ballistics. The project was a precursor to the WDMET study currently in NMHM archival collections. Documentation provides provenance for the panels of foreign bodies removed from wounded soldiers at the 2nd Surgical Hospital (in the Museum's Historical Collections). Records are a valuable documentation of the wounds and treatment for the wounds of soldiers during the Vietnam Conflict. Publications from this project include; Rich NM, "Vietnam missile wounds evaluated in 750 patients," *Mil Med.* (1968) Jan: 9-22; and Dimond FC Jr, Rich NM. "M-16 rifle wounds in Vietnam," *J Trauma* (1967) Sept: 619-25. Additional items in this collection connected to an accession in the NMHM's Historical Collections include a limited number of books and photographs related to ballistics in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, and Dr. Rich's time in Vietnam.

Note: biographical information is adapted from "A Festschrift Honoring Norman M. Rich," *World Journal of Surgery* 29 (2005): S1-S6.

BOX AND CONTENT LIST

Box 001:

00001: Biographical Information and Collection Background Material

- "A Festschrift Honoring Norman M. Rich," *World Journal of Surgery* (2005)
- "Vascular Trauma: Reflections and Projections," *Stanford University Division of Vascular Surgery Monthly Newsletter* (2003)
- "Dr. Norman Rich Papers: A Finding Aid to the Collection in the James A. Zimble Learning Resource Center (2012)
- "Medical Museum—AFIP," Article Documenting Move in 1968
- "AFIP—Medical Museum, 1980-81," Correspondence, Photographs and Caption Information for Contributions from Second Surgical Hospital
- "Permanent Vietnam Exhibit—AFIP" Mr. Colin E. Thompson and LTC Norman M. Rich, MC

00002: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, January 1966

00003: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, February 1966

00004: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, March 1966

00005: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, April 1966

00006: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, May 1966 [1 of 2]

00007: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, May 1966 [2 of 2]



00008: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, June 1966

Box 002:

00009: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, July 1966

00010: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, August 1966

00011: 2nd Surgical Hospital, APO 96940, Operations, September 1966

00012: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Clinical Records and Pathological Reports, 1966

00013: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Follow-up Correspondence from Patients Evacuated, 1966

00014: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Discharge Summaries, January 1966

00015: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Discharge Summaries, February 1966

00016: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Discharge Summaries, March 1966

00017: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Discharge Summaries, April 1966

Box 003:

00018: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Discharge Summaries, May 1966 [1 of 2]

00019: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Discharge Summaries, May 1966 [2 of 2]

00020: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Discharge Summaries, June 1966

00021: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Discharge Summaries, July 1966

00022: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Narrative Summaries, August 1966

00023: 2nd Surgical Hospital, Narrative Summaries, September 1966

Box 004:

00024: Photo: 2nd Surgical Hospital Medical Museum, An Khe (1966)

00025: Photo Reprints: Norman Rich with Ballistics Display Panels, An Khe (1966)

00026: Field Medical Card, Cpl. Pierce (1968)

00027: Nixon-Era Letter from Rich to President Nixon (4/23/71) and Reply (5/14/71)

00028: English-Vietnamese Pocket Dictionary, Anh Viet (n.d.)



00029: Handbook for U.S. Forces in Vietnam (1966)

00030: Chien-Cu, War Material from Viet Cong (1966)

00031: Guide to Selected Viet Cong Equipment and Explosive Devices (1966)

00032: Recognition Guide to Ammunition Available to, Or in Use By, the Viet Cong (1966)

Oversized:

- Two Unframed Vietnam Vascular Surgery Signs
 - Unframed Sign, Image of Helicopter, Vietnam Vascular Registry Insignia, and Emergency Contacts (posted above Rich's office door)
 - Unframed Sign, Partial List of Surgeons in Vietnam
- Handwritten Korean Vascular Registry, by LTC Carl W. Hughes